

Application No. 09/636,286

RD-27791

REMARKS

This Amendment cancels claims 1, 4 to 5, 8 to 9 and 25, amends claim 20 and adds new claims 32 to 48. All of the amendment to claim 20 and the new claims are based on claims indicated to be allowable or claims dependent from the allowable claims.

Claims 20, 22 to 24 and 26 to 48 are pending.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 to 9, 20, 22 to 23, 27 and 29 to 30 and 8 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Applicant's prior art teaching" and Palmquist. This amendment cancels claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 to 9 and amends independent claim 20 with the limitation of allowable claim 25. Claims 22 to 24 and 26 to 31 depend from the amended and allowable independent claim 20, and hence, should be allowable. The rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 8 to 9, 20, 22 to 23, 27 and 29 to 30 and 8 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Applicant's prior art teaching" and Palmquist should be withdrawn.

New independent claim 32 is the same as allowable claim 28 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 20 and any intervening claims (none). New independent claim 32 should be allowable. Claims 33 to 40 depend from the allowable independent claim 32 and hence, should be allowable.

New independent claim 41 is the same as allowable claim 31 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 20 and any intervening claims (none). New independent claim 41 should be allowable. Claims 42 to 48 depend from the allowable independent claim 41 and hence, should be allowable.

The substance of all the claims was indicated to be allowable. Hence, this Amendment adds no new issues. The Amendment cancels claims, thus eliminating appeal issues. Desirability of the Amendment became apparent only upon review of the pending Office Action. The Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Thus, entry of the Amendment is requested under 37 CFR §1.116.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 20, 22 to 24 and 26 to 48 are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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